

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 5, 11, 13, 25, and 28 remain cancelled. Claims 21-24, 26-27, and 42-43 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Independent claim 12 has been amended in accordance with the limitation of previously pending dependent claim 41, and dependent claim 41 has been cancelled. Independent claim 35 has been amended in accordance with the limitation in previously pending dependent claim 46, and dependent claim 46 has been cancelled.

Thus, claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14-20, 29-40, and 44-45 are present for examination.

Claim Objections:

Claims 1, 32, and 38-45 are objected to because of the following informalities: (i) claim 1, line 15, "if it is determined" should be changed to -- if determining --; (ii) claim 32, line 7, "if it is determined" should be changed to --if determining--; and (iii) claims 38, 39, 44, and 45, lines 2 and 4, "if it is determined" should be changed to --if determining--.

Claims 41-43 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 32, 38, 39, 44, and 45 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and, thus, are believed to be allowable. Because it depends from independent claim 1, dependent claim 40 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for the indication that claims 29, 30, 37, 41, and 44-46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant expresses further appreciation to the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-4, 6-10, 31-34, and 38-40 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in the present Office Action.

Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion so as to overcome the objection in the present Office Action and, thus, is believed to be allowable. Because they depend from independent claim 1, dependent claims 2-4, 6-10, 29-31, and 38-40 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 12 has been amended in accordance with the limitation of previously pending dependent claim 41. The Examiner indicated that claim 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 12, as amended, is believed to be allowable. Because they depend from independent claim 12, dependent claims 14-20 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 12 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 32 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion so as to overcome the objection in the present Office Action and, thus, is believed to be allowable. Because they depend from independent claim 32, dependent claims 33-34 and 44-45 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 32 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 35 has been amended in accordance with the limitation of previously pending dependent claim 46. The Examiner indicated that claim 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 35, as amended, is believed to be allowable. Because it depends from independent claim 35, dependent claim 36 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 35 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 37 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the previous base claim 35 and, thus, is believed to be allowable.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 12, 14-24, 26, 27, 35, 36, 42, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dozier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,751,346).

Claims 21-24, 26-27, and 42-43 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

With respect to claims 12, 14-20, and 35-36, as amended, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 12 has been amended in accordance with the limitation of previously pending dependent claim 41. The Examiner indicated that claim 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 12, as amended, is believed to be allowable. Because they depend from independent claim 12, dependent claims 14-20 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 12 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 35 has been amended in accordance with the limitation of previously pending dependent claim 46. The Examiner indicated that claim 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 35, as amended, is believed to be allowable. Because it depends from independent claim 35, dependent claim 36 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 35 is believed to be allowable.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to

Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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